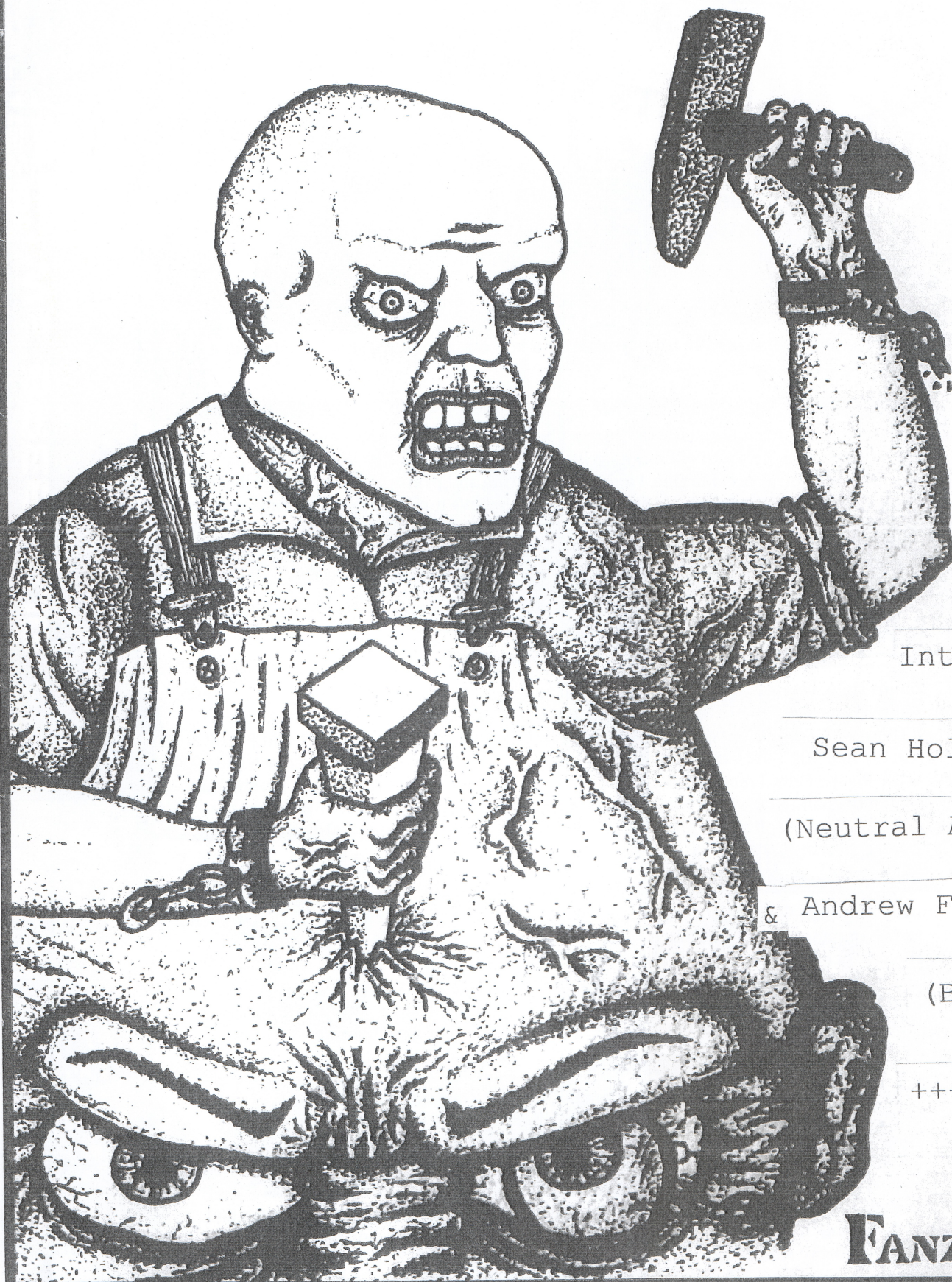


HEADACHE



Interviews

Sean Holland

(Neutral Accents)

& Andrew Fletcher

(Burden)

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FANZINE #1

NEUTRAL ACCENTS NEUTRAL ACCENTS, NEUTRAL ACCENTS NEUTRAL ACCENTS NEUTRAL ACCENTS NEUTRAL ACCENTS

Hey Sean, thanks for taking the time to answer a few questions. First of all introduce yourself in few sentences!

Hi Michael. I'm Sean from Illinois. I was born a poor, young, country boy - mother nature's son - about 100 miles directly south of Chicago, a little slice of Valhalla called Wapella. I'm partially responsible for Neutral Accents zine. I am old and boring and pretty uninteresting. I live by a mantra set forth by William F. Buckley: "I profoundly believe it takes a lot of practice to become a moral slob."

You are running the Neutral Accents Fanzine since 2012, correct? Why did you start this printed zine and who came up with the idea for the name?

2012 sounds right. I started it because I was bored and because I have always worked on zines. Central Illinois zines like NUDE, TOILET BOWL, COLD LOCALS and STEP-BROTHER got me started. Then later, I did some writing for a couple skinhead zines called GANG-UP and PRIDE & HONOR in the late 90s. I did a couple silly blogs too, most recently one called Saturday Night Beneath the Plastic Palm Trees, which had a bunch of interviews and reviews on it. It's still out there, a lot of the band interviews were worth a look. But I'd say the four recent-ish zines that were the most direct inspirations for NxÅ would be TOWN OF HARDCORE, GANG-UP, PRIDE & HONOR and especially CHUNKS.

Additionally, NxÅ is really a collective of people versus myself as one person. It's me, Joe Hawk (Battle Ruins, Hammer & the Nails, Lovely Lads, Rival Mob, 27x41 crew) Andy (Burden, MFP, artiste, renaissance man), Sir Thomas of the Terrors (Tommy & the Terrors, brewer, gentlemen) and Bob (MFP, Burden, prick puller) plus I'd include Adam D of the outback, and Beau SN also from the land down under as people that have helped out in a big way. Joe Hawk really drives shit and Andy makes it look presentable. It doesn't work without the group.

I called it Neutral Accents because I'm from the Midwest. The "neutral accent" in America refers to the notion that the Midwest doesn't really have a discernable accent. NYC and Boston have their own accents, the south has theirs, CA and the west coast have their own but much of the Midwest is known for "no accent" although Chicago, Minnesota, Wisconsin etc all actually have strong accents. But anyway, the neutral accent is that milquetoast, non-accent that I have, that American newscasters speak in. So I thought that since the Midwest gets pegged as boring and ordinary, that using "neutral accents" was as good as name as any, plus I didn't want anything overtly oi! or hardcore sounding.

SHORE (US/AUS),
Hired Goons (CAN),
PEACEBREAKERS (US),
THE REPOS (US),
THE REVILERS (US), VIOLENT EMP (US)

WE BREED UGLY

NxÅ
200

NxÅ

NxÅ

Issue Nix
Shipwreck
Fit For Abuse
Battle Ruins
Chubby C

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As Andy said, the goal was Esquire meets Schism. We wanted something a little different than "do you like 4-Skins?" "are YDL sketchy?" or "here's a review of a record everyone already has" type stuff. We wanted to include things that we like, like horror/exploitation films, beers, other bands of other genres, etc. We also don't really give a shit about what people say we can and can't print. Someone is always going to whine about something. People have said the zine is crappy (probably true) and that we are out of line (probably true) and we have bummed more than a few people out. That was the goal, so we're happy. Also, we've got armadillos in our trousers.

Next to the zine, NA also released the "WE BREED UGLY COMP" as a tape and also the first "BURDEN" demo. The demo in 2013 and two years later the compilation with only exclusive tracks! What was your intention to do such a killer tape?

Joe, Andy and I had talked about putting something out where bands that are friends of ours contributed a song that was *specifically* for the comp, nothing pre-released or already out there. Joe did the great majority of the legwork for getting bands involved and since most of them were friends of ours or were bands that Joe & Andy were personally involved in, that part wasn't too tough. So we got the tunes, Joe named it, Andy did the art, I put together the booklet, Andy and I financed it, and before you know it, this tape full of quality bands with quality tunes took us to the top of the Billboard charts and showed us the world and elsewhere.

Now to Burden, demo-release was in 2013, they were sold out pretty fast when I remember right...now, couple days ago, they played their first show in Boston, how was it?

BURDEN blew away expectations in their debut show. They worked hard to prepare. The band as a five piece with Carms added is basically like Led Zeppelin power. Andy is a chief frontman. He's got a lot of that 80s NYHC frontman charm mixed with his own thing. He's always at an 11 anyway, so the translation to the stage is as good as you'd expect. The only thing he forgot was doing a hip punch, where a metal frontman would stand still and punch his hip in time to the music as seen performed by Sammi Curr in the intro to the Fastway "Rock and Roll" video.

What was your first thought when you heard last year that Battle Ruins and all these other bands will play in April in Boston?

I was greatly relieved and appreciative, since I couldn't go to Sweden. I'm still bummed that I missed that.

Last year in Stockholm Battle Ruins played their first and only show, now this year they played a show too, do you think we can see them in the near future again?

My personal hope is that they play a final show for the third time. Australia would be ill, and if they went there, I'd be in tow. Will they? I have absolutely no idea. I'm assuming they are busy crushing enemies, seeing them driven before them and hearing the lamentation of the women.

What was your personal highlight at this weekend and the best cover-song?

Weekend highlight is tough, but I'd say either: the Dead Black poster, owning George and Bev in an argument about how awesome Among the Living is and how Suicidal Tendencies are goofballs or having high tea with a Mr. McGrath at a men's hotel on Dot Ave. Actual highlights were all bands, both shows. Seeing Battle Ruins and Shipwrecked for the first time was sort of surreal. Fit for Abuse will freeze your fucking blood. "Handsome" Dave Sheehan and Peacebreakers are probably my favorite band in the world right now, and the debut of BURDEN moved heaven and earth. Plus, and I shouldn't have to say this because it is fact but The Templars are the best American oi! band ever and they sounded really good, ked. The line-up was STACKED. Generically, all the bands were highlights.

Cover-wise, Burden did "Maximum Security" by Life's Blood which ruled, Brett from Sydney sang "Glue" with Shipwrecked and that was nuts but the covers highlight went to Hammer & the Nails for a 4 song mini-set of Straw Dogs songs. They did "Justice," "Skinheads Are Back," "Little Boys in Blue," and my favorite, "Dead on Arrival."

WE BREED
UGLY



BURDEN



OF STONE
NEL AND
BOB
BRI



Do you like the new Shipwrecked record and what is your current favorite band?

The new Shipwrecked EP? Klas, Joar, Jon etc understand that there is more to a band than delivering tunes that sound like yesteryear. I'll listen to bands that do old 80s hardcore all day long BUT with Shipwrecked, though you can hear the old Boston influence as well as oi! and rock n roll, songs like "For the Fall" aren't just a facsimile of any of those. Read the lyrics. Listen to that guitar solo on the outro. It sounds like Scandinavia not Boston. They filter their influences through their own lives, heritage and it becomes its own thing. How much of a groover is "Right and Reason?" The new ep is excellent. It's intense stuff that doesn't sound like anyone else but them. All hail the last Pagans.

Current favorite band is tough. Hard to peg just one. Hammer & the Nails have been up there for me since they started. They are miles ahead of most bands. Peacebreakers as I mentioned earlier. Of course Battle Ruins, Shipwrecked and Burden. I like Vanity a lot. My all-time number one is likely The Jam.

For a more broad picture that no one asked for, here's some stuff I have been listening to over the last month or so: Siamese Twins, Strong Blossom, Insurance Risk, Amorphous Androgynous remixes, the Syd Arthur single "No Peace" remix by Paul Weller's Sine of 4 collective, The

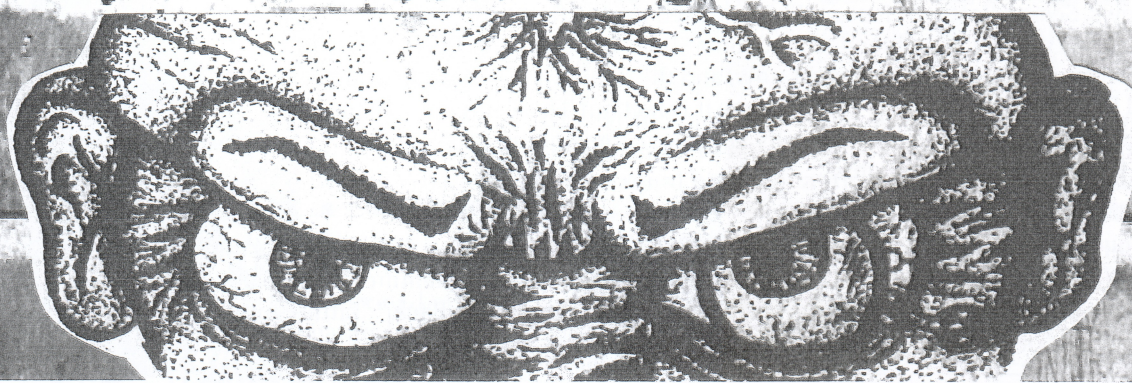
Zombies Odyssey and Oracle LP, Rixe, Carry Nation, Steve Winwood, Born Against, Ryley Walker, Combatant, Sex Pistols singles, Komintern Sect, Aphrodite's Child 666 LP, Cast, early Klasse Kriminale, Nabat and new Foreseen, Shipwrecked, Hammer & the Nails, Battle Ruins, and the Accursed.

You told me before that you hung out with a few guys from Australia, is that in your eyes what hardcore is about, hanging out with people from all over the world, because they have the same passion for the same things...?!

At the risk of sounding like a frooooooot, that's pretty much the best part for me. Some of my best friends have come from hanging out in "the scene" and seeing most of them in one place was the best, Jerry. The best. Finally meeting Klas, Joar, Aussie Brett etc was also incredible. Such a crew of top-notch people in one city for a weekend is really going to be tough to beat.

Back to NxA, your latest 7inch is Conmen from Boston, as a co-release with Stabilizer (Rock n Roll disgrace), do you have plans for other stuff with the fanzine/label?

Yes, NxA Records hopes to push on. One idea is a sequel to WE BREED UGLY. We want(ed) to do it on LP this time, with a crazy roster of bands. I've got a few other things in the works, too. As an aside, I got lucky being asked to help put out that CONMEN 7 inch with my BFF Bob, as that band are a fucking ferociously talented group and that ep turned out amazing. Looking forward to hearing what they come up with next, especially with the addition of Jamie Jones to the band. I'm trying to pitch an animated show in the style of the MONKEES, starring CONMEN, with animation by Josh McAlear. Also hoping to do some more stuff with Bob as well as perhaps Muna from Under Watchful Eyes records too.



A lot of your stuff is illustrated by Andy Fletcher better known as Faust ☺. Is he also involved in NA or only a fucking good source for artwork?

I sort of addressed this earlier, but without Andy and Joe, there is no Neutral Accents. Andy has done art for every issue, but besides that, he was down since issue #1. He wrote a killer article on the film Cannibal Holocaust for that first issue and did all kinds of art for it and he has been a reckoning force since. He comes up with ideas for features, he writes for the zine, he does shirt designs...when it all comes out in the wash, Andy is probably the most creative person I know. No Andy, No Hawk = No NxA.

One thing you hate in hardcore/punk in 2017?!

I'll give you 4:

1. Social Media: We all know that social media is evil blah blah blah. Don't get me wrong, we're all adults and we can acknowledge that Facebook, Instagram etc are actually great but we also know it all stinks too. I've met and continue to meet some of the best people through these channels (mainly via Pornhub comments section) but also, a lot of kooks out there are worse than ever because of it. Yuck. But I am a hypocrite because I also love it and am on it all day long, so this is whining is redundant I guess.
2. Merch lines: We all want cool stuff but huge merch lines are the equivalent of Record Store Day. Puke. I'm glad bands are making money though.
3. Namedropping Britpop bands: I'd rather hear Joe Hawk and Bob Richards call me names for buying an Oasis bootleg than suffer through another person talking about Stone Roses etc. The only people allowed to discuss this subject are Pearse, Luke, Mike K, Evan, Jason Curran, Lance, Colleen and Doug from Rival Mob. That's it. Talk to me when you've walked a mile in Noel or Ian Brown's "trainers" whereby you walk through a town with a guitar whilst wearing a Stone Island jacket just to meet up with another grown man to hug each other. I WOULD be glad to discuss how amazing that Seahorses record is (garbage). LOVE IS THE LAW.
4. Also remember, I hate a lot of things, but I mainly hate myself.

Issue 9 of NA is already sold out, I missed it ☹, when can we expect number 10?

I'll send you a copy of issue nine. (SECRET: most issues are never really "sold out." I can always print more...except for the Austin issue, which is gone as fuck, and that sucks because that Rival Mob interview was a keeper.)

Issue-number ten might be our swan song. It is probably cumming soon. Joe and I have already started talking about it. Probably out middle of summer, or early fall. Which means Christmas.

OK, now we come to an end, you can add whatever you want to tis interview, last words, advices or you can swear a bit, its up to you!

Thanks for the interest in Neutral Accents, Michael. I fully understand that most people don't give two shits about what I have to say. Fuck, I bore myself. But thanks anyway.

Thanks to people who were down with NxA from the get go and thanks to these people specifically for putting up with me: Bob, Pearse, Joe, Andy, Bev, Brian, Duffy, Matt, Lance, Greg, Cliff, Jamie, Dave S, Mike K and Emily, Luke, Evan, Jimmy Flynn, Colleen, Cooch, McCuddy, George, Johnny D, Will DWZ, Alex and Travis, Dave Borjes, men of Illinois like Muna, Jake, Bob R, Chris & Jon Goff, Nick B, Jimmy P, John from Reverberation, John Holland, Bryan Nussbaum. Australians: Adam & Tia, Brett, Beau, Alex and Michaela (zines are headed your way.) Klas & Joar of the mighty Shipwrecked.

Shout out to Humsey as always.

My advice? Read these Nikes.

Mission accomplished. Good work, men.

NxA

NEUTRALACCENTS.STORENVY.COM

Burden

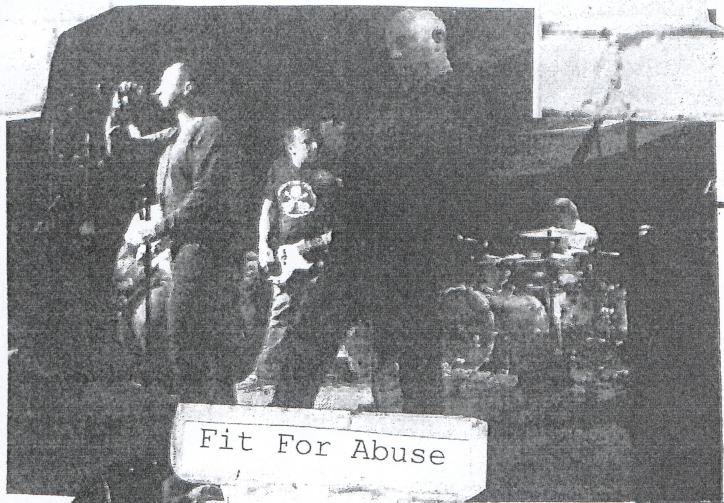
by Mary Scudder



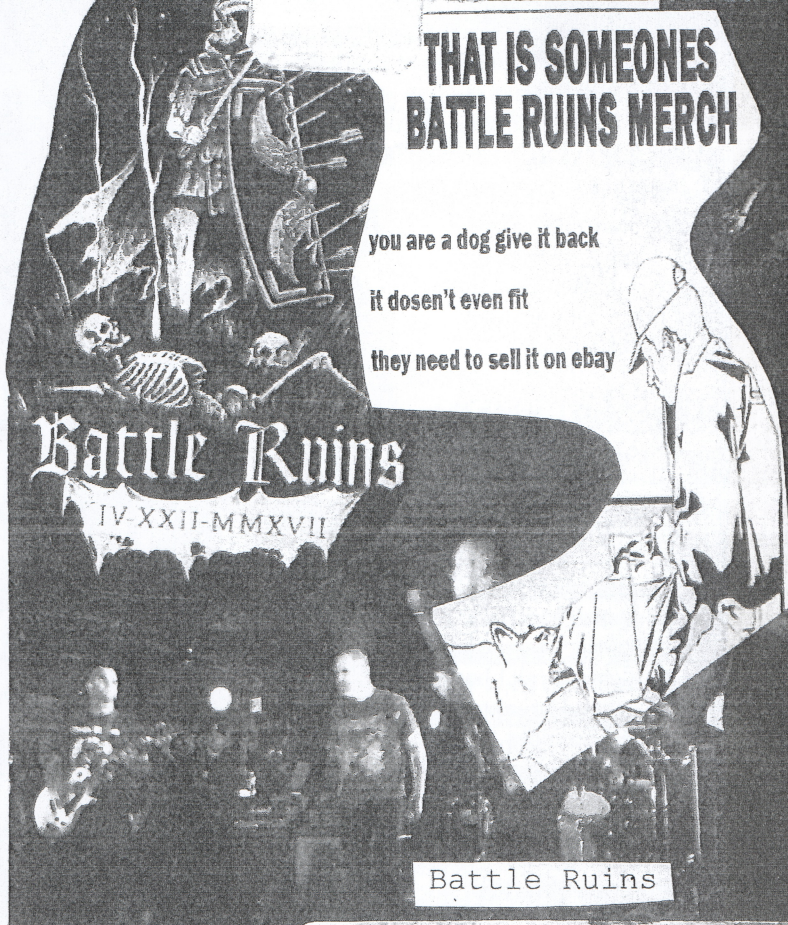
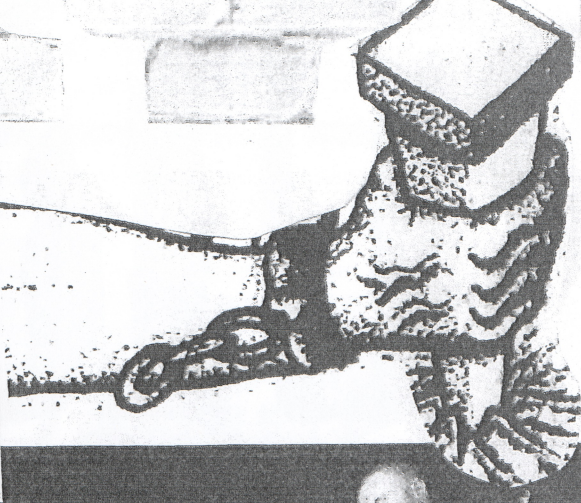
Shipwrecked

Middle East

Peacebreakers



Fit For Abuse



Boston Strangler



NxA

Listen to the
New Shiprecked 7"

W



BURDEN

Andy, an essential thing at that point of every interview is, give a brief description who you are, where are you from and what are you doing in your daily life?

"Well on this day I am approaching my fourth decade in this world. I work for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Mosquito Control technician. What this means is that I spend my days in the swamps, woods and marshes controlling the population of man's eternal nemesis, the diminutive mosquito. It's a job that requires autonomy, instinct and frequently pure force. So that is part of my identity. As for myself, personality wise, I might describe myself best as something like Andy Griffith meets Agnostic Front, a dimstore Darby Crash, with a sprinkling of Mr Furley over the whole awful concoction"

A lot of the people out there probably reading only your nickname FAUST, when they look at a cover, zine or whatever you made an artwork for...

What sparked your interest in drawing? What influences you?

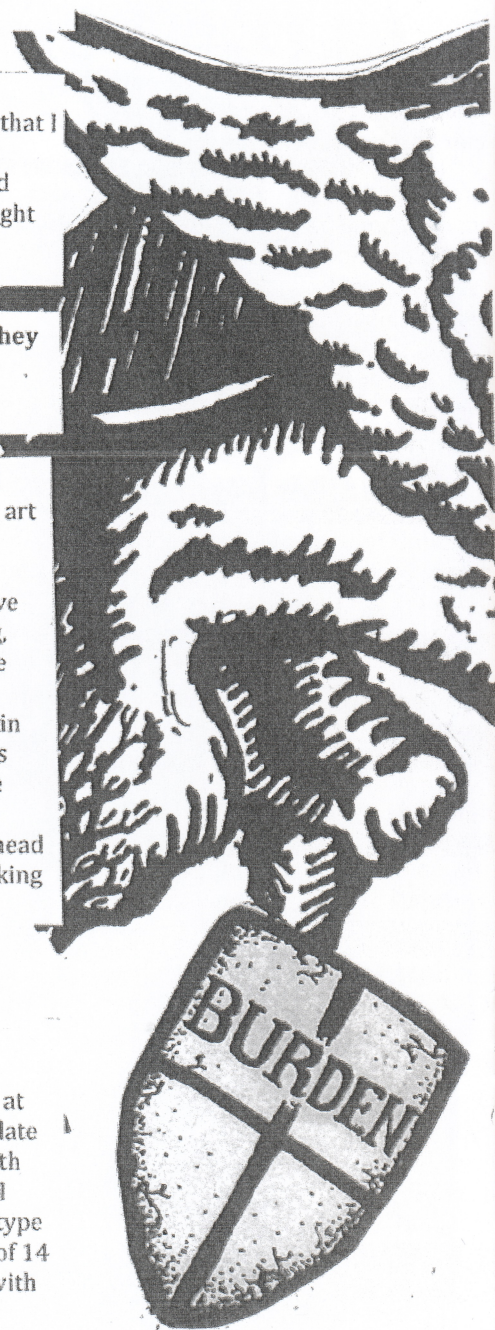
"I've been drawing some kind of shit for as long as I remember. For me all footsteps lead back to Chuy, Pushead, Marc Rude and Sean Taggart whom are the progenitors of the HC art style we all recognize today. HC art is sort of defined by me as extraordinary aggression coupled with primitive style, unsophisticated, rough and to the point. All of the aforementioned artists continue to be an inspiration aesthetically, but I like to think I have my own take on the genre. I don't think I am necessarily doing anything ground breaking, more like "Standing on the shoulders of giants" as they saying goes. Other influences...the Dutch artist Hieronymous Bosch is a big one, Warren Magazine horror artists, Thrasher magazine, 80's punk, free floating antipathy..bizarre moods, lack of sleep must all factor in there somewhere. . So combine all of that and you have me. When I was a young kid I was obsessed with drawing dinosaurs and sharks just ripping people to pieces, so those were frequent motifs in my shabby youthful oeuvre. I wish I still had some of that stuff ha. It's something that is very much a part of me as much as my own leg. I have a few projects ahead which I'm excited to be a part of But having said all that, after that is done I'll likely be taking a break from art to concentrate on the band and other projects."

What is the meaning of this alias?

"I sign all my work with my initials "AF" but to answer your question I've always been enamored of the tale with the same name. Something about man's search for things and experiences beyond our mortal limitations appeals to my sensibilities. I am not religious at all though, the protagonist's desire for worldly glory is probably something we can all relate to in some way, but at what cost. I guess it's a cautionary tale of forbidden knowledge with moralistic overtones and maybe one that tells us something about our collective nature. I however, didn't choose the name based off that alone, maybe a "chicken before the egg" type thing but FAUST was also the name of my dog who has since passed on at the hoary age of 14 many years ago, he may have made a deal w the Devil for more treats and nap, all done with zero alacrity, I'm not sure..."

Can you remember, what was the first band, which got a cover-artwork from you?

"Well for many years I didn't draw anything at all, I got heavily invested in other hobbies and I think it was probably MFP, the skinhead wolf cover for the demo may mark my resurgence.



And I believe next I did the cover art for the European press version that came out on Stomp Records? I have a really bad chronological memory. I also designed some T shirts and flyers for local bands as a teenager growing up in NJ... similarly themed, but my artwork was very gasty and sort of super basic back then."

Meanwhile, Neutral Accents released issue 9. You did every single artwork for it, I found out from Sean, correct? Are you doing it for issue 10 too? How would you describe your relation to NxA and all the people around?

Yeah we've been working closely together since its inception and I've done the lion's share of all the artwork for it, as well as a few articles here and there. I like doing NxA material because I can just have fun with it and do whatever I like. We are all (the staff, for lack of a better term) bizarrely connected as far as that is concerned, knowing full well its something we'd all dig wether its an article, artwork etc. There is an implicit trust no one's gonna throw something out there that is lame. We are all a pretty tight group of friends fueled by humor and hate with an obsessive interest in the same kind of bullshit.

Anyway, next to your drawings and stuff you are doing some music too... When did you decide to start a band like BURDEN and who are the members? Who came up with the name?

"I came up with the name because I liked the idea of a one word heavy sounding name along the lines of JUDGE. For me it encompasses the struggle of life and the fortitude to deal with it. Hence the shield as well. I started it on a whim really as I wasn't doing anything musically with anyone at that time. I wanted to do something heavy, something dark that mixed late 80's NYHC with some of the harder sounding British and German Oi!, but with a distinctly rural New England edge.. So BURDEN is an amalgam of all of that. And as far as those that came before us, we are the spiritual cousins of Hammer & The Nails in that sense.

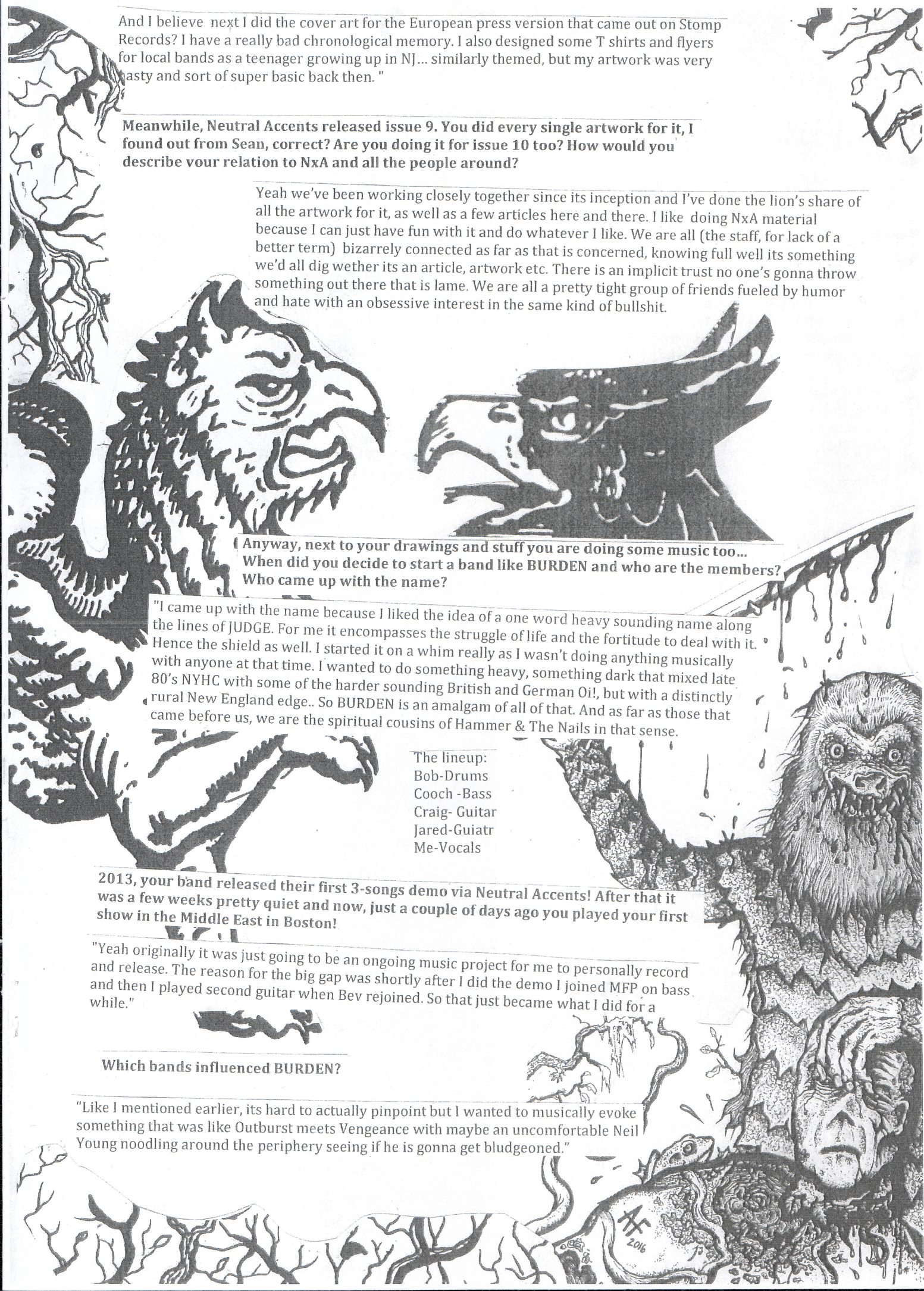
The lineup:
Bob-Drums
Cooch -Bass
Craig- Guitar
Jared-Guitar
Me-Vocals

2013, your band released their first 3-songs demo via Neutral Accents! After that it was a few weeks pretty quiet and now, just a couple of days ago you played your first show in the Middle East in Boston!

"Yeah originally it was just going to be an ongoing music project for me to personally record and release. The reason for the big gap was shortly after I did the demo I joined MFP on bass and then I played second guitar when Bev rejoined. So that just became what I did for a while."

Which bands influenced BURDEN?

"Like I mentioned earlier, its hard to actually pinpoint but I wanted to musically evoke something that was like Outburst meets Vengeance with maybe an uncomfortable Neil Young noodling around the periphery seeing if he is gonna get bludgeoned."



...just like a cancer that tears the body apart
with domination and control
at it's malignant heart...

The second appearance of Battle Ruins but the first in their motherland, together with a bunch of killer-bands! What did you think when you realized probably last year that you can play that weekend with all these bands?
How was the first show for you?

"It was maybe a year ago that Joe Hawk asked BURDEN to play. And after a bit of thinking about the logistics, I said sure. It was interesting because as our guitarist Jared put it we had to form a band around a show, which is usually not the case. We don't all live close so it took some dedication to pull it off, which I think we did. We got to kick off an incredible weekend of seeing some of the best bands around today, saw some old friends, met some new ones. Just a great time."

Sean told me that you covered "Maximum Security" of Life's Blood. Why did you choose this band and especially this song?

"I've always been a fan of Life's Blood and that song in particular. It's message of "otherness" and "individuality" amongst the crowd is something that should be noted by everyone. That can easily be lost. Sonically though it's just a fierce song and seemed to fit loosely within our sound"

This year, NxA and Under Watchful Eyes re-issued the demo as a 7inch out of a really limited amount of 20 hand-numbered copies. (vinyl-heaven haha)
I am not sure, was that pressing a special thing for the first show?
Probably sold out after 5min]

"Yes, Muna did an incredible job with that release. Those copies w the silver paper and the original demo art by me were basically record release/show editions. They went pretty quick."

Any plans for the near future, like shows or any other releases?

"Right now we are working on finishing up some new material which will be recorded early summer. That will be the new EP, hopefully released as the leaves drop in 2017. As far as shows are concerned we do not currently have anything planned or booked."

RECORD RELEASE
4/21/2017

BURDIEN

NxA

SIDE A: TIME TRYTH TRUTH
SIDE B: INTRO / DIVIDED

UNDER
WATCHFUL
EYES

I saw Battle Ruins last year in Stockholm and it was a blast. But the venue in Boston looked pretty familiar and small to me, no fence or disturbing bullshit like that...way better! What was your personal highlight at the show in the Middle East?

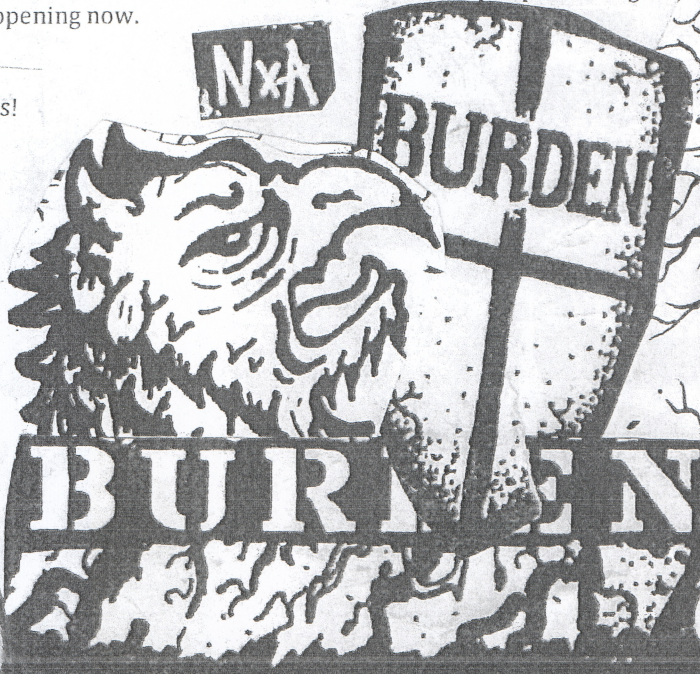
"That's cool, yeah I wasn't at the Stockholm show so I can't compare it, but the Middle East is a pretty good long standing venue. Pretty sure when I saw the Cro Mags years ago there was a barrier, but that is not the norm. People generally behave themselves within the parameters of what is acceptable at a HC show so I don't know what that was about. I don't even have to mention that all the bands just destroyed the place, that was evident. Seeing all

Often ask, but always interesting for me...what's your favorite current band?

"I don't necessarily have one favorite and I'm pretty bad at checking out newer stuff but currently really dig Shipwrecked, I like their unique combination of blistering HC blended with their native folkways. And not to keep referring to the shows but I would put every band that played both nights among my favorites today. It was a solid line up representing a great cross section of what's happening now.

Thanks!

TIME TRYETH
DIVIDED
PATH OF STONE
UNTITLED
MAXIMUM
VICTORY



1. Intro

2. Time Tryeth Truth

3. Divide

All pictures of Burden by Mary Scudder Thanks a lot!

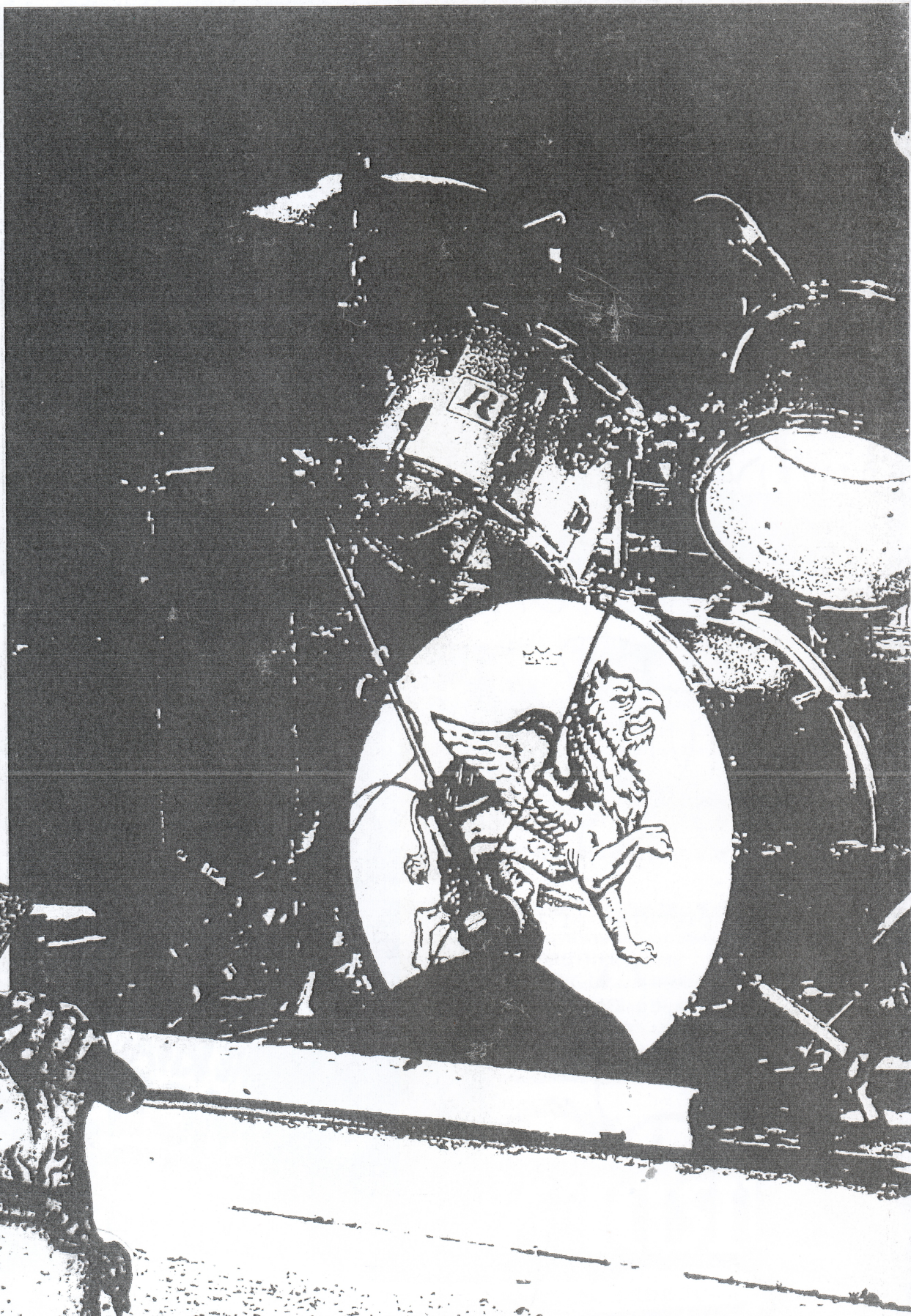
Thanks to Carly and Greg for the pictures, "ROOT" for the artwork



Contact: Michael.straight.edge.1989@gmx.de

Thanks to everyone who picks up a copy of this zine...

HEADACHE



(p)age of ignorance 5/2017

Blood-pressure : high

HEADACHE WON'T FADE AWAY #1